

**From:** OConnor, Edward (Edward)  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 10:05am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am opposed to the Microsoft Settlement in its current form. Computers and software are part of my life; they are the tools with which I make a living and how I communicate with others.

Microsoft creates good software-- I have been using the software for many years. I am opposed to the level of control that they exert on hardware and software professionals. Software innovation and development was once common on the Microsoft platform, but the company has begun to lock down all of the channels of access to widely available hardware and software platforms. Distribution channels which have been funded and created by the government for the public good are now becoming controlled by Microsoft for the benefit of Microsoft, and to the detriment of all other parties, including independent software and hardware developers.

In particular, I am distressed that the Settlement does little to address the strong-arm anticompetitive practices that Microsoft engages in with OEMs. If these practices are not made illegal, or otherwise limited, Microsoft will continue to manipulate and control 95% of the computing world, and use this power to extend into new technology markets. Failure to address these issues now will result in an imbalance in competition that will affect technology and innovation for generations to come.

Respectfully,  
Ed O'Connor

Independent Software Developer  
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